

**IN THE SPECIFICATION:**

Please amend the specification as follows:

NE

Page 4, lines 2-5, please replace "Hygieia.....95776" with --American Type Culture Collection, 10801 University Boulevard, Manassas, VA 20110-2209--

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

Please cancel Claims 1-11 without prejudice. In addition, please add the following new Claims 18 and 19.

--18. A pharmaceutical composition for the prevention and treatment of Papillomatous Digital Dermatitis in ruminants comprising:

a therapeutically effective amount of at least one member selected from the group consisting of bacterial species belonging to the genus *Serpens*;

an immunologically active portion thereof; and

an antigenic epitope cross-reactive with the *Serpens* genera in combination with a veterinarily acceptable diluent or a carrier.

19. A method of preventing or treating Papillomatous Digital Dermatitis in ruminants comprising:

administering to a ruminant a therapeutically effective amount of a combination of at least one member selected from the group consisting of bacterial species belonging to the genus *Serpens*; and

an antigenic epitope cross-reactive with *Serpens* genera.--

**REMARKS**

This is a Preliminary Amendment in a divisional application, which is based upon a US Application Serial No. 08/903,559. By virtue of this Preliminary Amendment, Claims 12-19 are pending. An examination on the merits of the application is respectfully requested.

The Commissioner is authorized to charge any shortage in the fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account No. 07-1853.